UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/753,726	01/03/2001	Atsushi Okada	1232-4671	3777

7590   07/29/2003

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EXAMINER
NGUYEN, TAM V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2172	

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DATE MAILED: 07/29/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/753,726	OKADA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Tam V Nguyen	2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>20 May 2003</u> .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-43* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-43* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-43 are pending in this action. Claims 1-43 are presented for

examination. This office action is in response to the amendment dated on 5/20/03.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-43 have been considered but are

moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   Claims 1-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Frisina (US 6385621B1) in view of Noumaru et al. (US 5930460).

With respect to claim 1, a storage medium which stores a standard man-hour

database designed to be readable by a computer, (col. 2, lines 55-col. 3, lines 2) in

which a number of pairs each constituted by a work standard described by a standard

expression and man-hour corresponding to the work standard are registered in

advance, (col. 3, lines 3-21); setting means for, for each of target work standards to

which man-hours are to be given, matching an expression of target work standard with

the standard expressions of the work standards in said standard man-hour database

and setting a standard man-hour corresponding to a matching work standard in said

database as a man-hour of the target work standard, (col. 3, lines 54-col. 4, lines 11); and man-hour file means for storing a file of man-hours of the target work standard set by said setting means, (col. 6, lines 40-44 and col. 4, lines 12-19).

Frisina discloses in addition to labor requirements, provision is made for assigning parts needed for specific operation/suboperations such as bolts, nuts, gaskets, etc., so that material requirements are identified. Tools needed can also be identified, though this may be limited to special tools beyond those allocated to a particular craftsman's, (col. 4, lines 42-47). However, Frisina does not explicitly teach *target work standard.* Noumaru discloses a car-type No. input block 32 serving as a target work specifying means, the manipulator individual program module 14, the operation factor manipulator table 18, the car-type classified operation registration file 24, and a manipulator control block 34 are connected to a program functions as a facility program formation means. A car-type number for extracting data related to a predetermined car type from the car-type classified operation registration file 24 is input from the car-type No. input block 32, (col. 4, lines 41-49) as step of *target work standard.* Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made modify Frisina by including target work standard as taught by Noumaru in order to automatically generate teaching programs for each of the facilities, (col. 2, lines 35-36).

As to claims 2 and 20, Frisina further discloses the system according to claim 1, wherein the target work standard to which the man-hour is to be given is described by an operation phrase representing an operation of a work, an objection phrase

representing a target of the operation, and a comment phrase representing auxiliary information related to the operation and/or object, and each of the work standards in said database is also described by an operation phrase, object phrase, and comment phrase, (col. 8, lines 12-68).

As to claims 3 and 21, Frisina further discloses the system according to claim 1, wherein for the target work standard to which the man-hour is to be given, a first comment related to an object of an operation, an object phrase representing the object of the operation, a second comment related to the operation, and an operation phrase representing the operation of the work are described in a predetermined order, and for each of the work standards in said database, a first comment, object phrase, second comment, and operation phrase are also described in the predetermined order, (col. 8, lines 12-68).

As to claims 4 and 22, Frisina further discloses the system according to claim 1, wherein said setting means preferentially executes search based on complete matching between the expression of the target work standard and the standard expression of the work standard in said standard man-hour database, (col. 6, lines 6-23).

As to claims 5 and 23, Frisina further discloses the system according to claim 4, wherein said setting means uses search based on partial matching for the target work standard for which the search based on complete matching to the standard expression

of the work standard in said standard man-hour database fails, (col. 2, lines 55-col. 3,

lines 2).

As to claims 6 and 24, Frisina further discloses the system according to claim 4,

wherein, when the search of the expression of the target work standard in said standard

man-hour database fails, said setting means executes search in a second man-hour

database whose degree of standardization is lower than that of said standard man-hour

database, (col. 2, lines 55-col. 3, lines 2).

As to claims 7 and 25, Frisina further discloses the system according to claim 5,

wherein the expression included in the target work standard includes an expression by

a wild card, (col. 2, lines 55-col. 3, lines 2).

As to claims 8 and 26, Frisina further discloses the system according to claim 7,

wherein, when a plurality of standard work standards which match a work standard

including an expression including a wild card symbol are present, candidates are

displayed in a descending order of the degrees of matching to cause the user to select

any one of the candidates, (col. 6, lines 34-64).

As to claims 9 and 27, Frisina further discloses the system according to claim 1,

wherein standard man-hour data in said standard man-hour database contains a man-

hour value and data related to a set condition when the man-hour value is set, (col. 6, lines 34-64).

As to claims 10 and 28, Frisina further discloses the system according to claim 9, wherein the condition data is referred to by a directory in a memory space of said automatic man-hour setting system, and said setting means sets a directory value of the searched set condition data of the work standard as the man-hour of the target work standard, (col. 6, lines 34-64).

As to claims 11 and 29, Frisina further discloses the system according to claim 6, further comprising analysis means for analyzing the work standard to assign the man-hour when no matching is obtained by searching the second man-hour database, (col. 2, lines 55-col. 3, lines 2).

As to claims 12 and 30, Frisina further discloses the system according to claim 6, further comprising analysis means for analyzing the work standard to assign the man-hour when no matching is obtained by searching said standard man-hour database, (col. 3, lines 3-21).

As to claims 13 and 31, Frisina further discloses the system according to claim 11, wherein said analysis means uses a creation tool with the same reference as that in creating contents of said standard man-hour database, (col. 3, lines 3-21).

As to claims 14 and 32, Frisina further discloses the system according to claim 12, wherein said analysis means uses a creation tool with the same reference as that in creating contents of said second man-hour database, (col. 3, lines 3-21).

As to claims 15 and 33, Frisina further discloses the system according to claim 1, wherein further comprising download means for downloading a plurality of work standard data to which man-hours are to be given, (col. 6, lines 34-44).

As to claims 16 and 34, Frisina further discloses the system according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of downloadable work standard are stored in an external database, and said download means comprises means for downloading directories of the downloadable work standards from the external database and displaying the directories, and selection means for selecting an arbitrary one of the displayed directories, thereby selecting the target work standard to which the man-hour is to be given, (col. 6, lines 34-44).

As to claims 17 and 35, Frisina further discloses the system according to claim 16, wherein the external database stores the downloadable work standards having a hierarchical structure according to the degree of assembly, said download means downloads upper directories to said man-hour setting system together with the directories of the downloadable work standards, said display means displays the

downloaded work standard directories and upper directories together, and said

selection means can designate to select whether one of the displayed work standard

directories or upper directories, (col. 6, lines 6-30).

As to claim 18, Frisina further discloses a distributed client/server database system

comprising: a server including said man-hour setting system, (col. 2, lines 55-col. 3,

lines 2) of claim 1; and a plurality of clients each having said setting means, (col. 2, lines

55-col. 3, lines 2) of claim 1.

With respect to claim 19, the subject matter of claim 19 is rejected in·the analysis

above claim 1; therefore, claim 19 is also rejected for the same reasons as given in

claim 1.

As to claim 36, Frisina further discloses the method according to claim 35, wherein

the hierarchical structure according to the degree of assembly is formed by putting the

plurality of work standards together into an upper work group and giving a group

identifier to each of the groups put together, (col. 6, lines 34-64).

As to claim 37, Frisina further discloses the method according to claim 36, wherein

the work group is classified into one of a component group formed from a plurality of

work standards, a model group formed from a plurality of components, and a genre

group formed from a plurality of models, (col. 4, lines 51-col. 5, lines 51).

As to claim 38, Frisina further discloses the method according to claim 19, wherein the man-hour file has, for each work standard, a field where a log of addition and correction related to the man-hour is recorded, (col. 4, lines 12-19).

As to claim 39, Frisina further discloses the system according to claim 1, wherein the man-hour file has, for each work standard, a field where a log of addition and correction related to the man-hour is recorded, (col. 4, lines 12-19).

As to claim 40, Frisina further discloses the system according to claim 39, further comprising means for referring to the log field, (col. 4, lines 12-19).

As to claim 41, Frisina further discloses a computer program storage medium which stores program codes of said automatic man-hour setting method to realize said automatic man-hour setting method of claim 19 by a computer system, (col. 2, lines 55-col. 3, lines 2).

As to claim 42, Frisina further discloses the system according to claim 2, wherein for the target work standard to which the man-hour is to be given, a first comment related to an object of an operation, an object phrase representing the object of the operation, a second comment related to the operation, and an operation phrase representing the operation of the work are described in a predetermined order, and for

each of the work standards in said database, a first comment, object phrase, second comment, and operation phrase are also described in the predetermined order, (col. 8, lines 12-68).

As to claim 43, Frisina further discloses the method according to claim 20, wherein for the target work standard to which the man-hour is to be given, a first comment related to an object of an operation, an object phrase representing the object of the operation, a second comment related to the operation, and an operation phrase representing the operation of the work are described in a predetermined order, and for each of the work standards in the database, a first comment, object phrase, second comment, and operation phrase are also described in the predetermined order, (col. 8, lines 12-68).

Contact Information

5.   **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications

from the examiner should be directed to Tam V Nguyen whose telephone number

is (703) 305-3735. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM-5: 00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Kim Yen Vu can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone numbers for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for

formal communications and (703) 746-7240 for informal communications.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal

Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202. Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

6.   Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or

proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-

3900.

TV:tv

07/17/03